

*Dear parents, caregivers, students and friends of the school. Tena koutou katoa. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.*

What a great year we are having with our students collectively punching well above their weight when we compare their successes against much larger intermediate and secondary schools nationwide.

This year has featured a large number of students achieving outstanding results in the ICAS tests. These tests have been developed by the University of New South Wales and are taken by students across Australia and twelve other countries globally. The tests assess students' academic ability in Computer Skills, English, Mathematics, Science and Writing with High Distinction, Distinction and Credit Certificates awarded to the most outstanding students.

In our school any students who wish to give the tests a go are encouraged to participate and in 2009 our collective results were:

- 4 High Distinction Awards
- 46 Distinction Awards
- 115 Credit Awards
- 250 Participation awards achieving over 50% national rankings.

The Arts Academy students have had a great year with many students in the media arts gaining national recognition.

Recently seven students took out the 1<sup>st</sup> three placings in a number of categories in the New Zealand Young Designer Awards.

Ben Cooper won the Regional Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Competition for the Tauranga District and will go on to represent our district in the national finals. Andy Duncanson from Room 1 is one of 20 winning film makers from across New Zealand who will go to TVNZ on 10<sup>th</sup> December to receive an award for his animation called "Stumpy".

Harry Jackson took out 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Intermediate Video Game Design section of the TVNZ6 Netguide Multimedia Challenge.

A further 12 students were finalists in the second national MADE (Movie and Digital Excellence) Awards held at Baycourt. The school was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Commercial and Manipulated Image section. Millie Atkinson and Alex Fleming also took out individual awards.

A number of students from Room 2 also travelled to Auckland to compete in the National Robotics competitions.

Our sports teams have been a formidable force in a wide variety of sports and performed to the highest level at the 2009 NZCT Aims Games.

It is great to celebrate all these individual and team successes and I will also be delighted to report on the school's overall success in the key areas of literacy and numeracy.

Our school has consistently set high standards of achievement and expect at least 87% of our students to graduate at the end of Year 8 reading at or above their chronological age. We will be able to report on our 2009 results in the next newsletter.

From 2010 we will be assessing our students' achievement against the National Standards for Year's 1-8 in literacy and numeracy.

## NATIONAL STANDARDS

The New Zealand curriculum is supported by the newly introduced National Standards which set clear expectations that need to be met in reading, writing and mathematics in the first eight years at school.

As economies around the world globalise, we are going to have to compare the standards of our school system to those of other countries.

Our country's standards have been designed so that a student who meets them is on track to succeed at NCEA Level 2.

Ministry of Education predictions are that 51% of current Year 7 and 8 students are meeting the standards at present.

Clearly our goal as a school is to exceed these predictions and have the majority of students achieving the standards.

Schools are expected to use a range of assessment methods to form an overall judgment about each student's progress and achievement. Our school has been using the University of Auckland developed AsTTle tests in reading, writing and mathematics for some time along with the NZCER PAT tests in reading comprehension. These tests give us a great tool to be able to make good judgments on each of our student's progress through the school.

The National Standards for students coming to and at Otumoetai Intermediate are described as follows:

### **By the end of Year 6 (Incoming Students)**

#### ***The Reading Standard***

By the end of Year 6, students will read, respond to and think critically about texts in order to meet the reading demands of the New Zealand Curriculum at Level 3. Students will locate, evaluate and integrate information and ideas within and across a small range of texts appropriate to this level as they generate and answer questions to meet specific learning purposes across the curriculum.

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**The Writing Standard**

By the end of Year 6, students will create texts in order to meet the writing demands of the New Zealand Curriculum at Level 3. Students will use their writing to think about, record and communicate experiences, ideas and information to meet specific learning purposes across the curriculum.

**The Mathematics Standard**

By the end of Year 6, students will be achieving at Level 3 in the mathematics and statistics learning area of the New Zealand Curriculum.

**By the end of Year 7**

**The Reading Standard**

By the end of Year 7, students will read, respond to and think critically about texts in order to meet the reading demands of the New Zealand Curriculum as they work towards Level 4. Students will locate, evaluate and synthesise information and ideas within and across a range of texts appropriate to this level as they generate and answer questions to meet specific learning purposes across the curriculum.

**The Writing Standard**

By the end of Year 7, students will create texts in order to meet the writing demands of the New Zealand Curriculum as they work towards Level 4. Students will use their writing to think about, record and communicate experiences, ideas and information to meet specific learning purposes across the curriculum.

**The Mathematics Standard**

By the end of Year 7, students will be achieving at early Level 4 in the mathematics and statistics learning area of the New Zealand Curriculum.

**By the end of Year 8**

**The Reading Standard**

By the end of Year 8, students will read, respond to and think critically about texts in order to meet the reading demands of the New Zealand Curriculum at Level 4. Students will locate, evaluate and synthesise information and ideas within and across a range of texts appropriate to this level as they generate and answer questions to meet specific learning purposes across the curriculum.

**The Writing Standard**

By the end of Year 8, students will create texts in order to meet the writing demands of the New Zealand Curriculum at Level 4. Students will use their writing to think about, record and communicate experiences, ideas and information to meet specific learning purposes across the curriculum.

**The Mathematics Standard**

By the end of Year 8, students will be achieving at Level 4 in the mathematics and statistics learning area of the New Zealand Curriculum.

From 2010 our parents will receive two written reports, one in June and the other at the end of the year. These will report in plain English how their child is progressing in relation to the National Standards. The mid year reports will be sent home prior to parent interviews at the end of Term 2.

**PTA GARDEN COMPETITION**

**Get your entries in this week!**

Gardens may be entered in the following sections:

- Herb Garden
- Vegetable Garden
- Flower Garden.

Categories include:

- Creative Garden
- Compact Garden
- Sustainable Garden.

An entry form is enclosed.

**CELLPHONES AT SCHOOL SURVEY**

A big thank you to all parents/caregivers and students who completed the recent survey. The results were:

**Parents**

- 36% believed we should keep our current policy.
- 64% believe we should allow students to have cellphones at school with conditions.

**Teachers and Support Staff**

- 30% believed we should keep our current policy.
- 70% believed we should allow cellphones at school and teach students how to use these appropriately.

**Students**

- 27% believed we should keep our current policy.
- 72% believed we should allow cellphones at school. Almost all of those students believed rules should be developed to enable the use of cellphones but also to keep everyone safe and to use the cellphones in appropriate ways.

The survey was discussed at our Board of Trustees meeting last week and there was unanimous support for allowing students to bring cellphones to school within a set of protocols. These protocols would be developed with students at the beginning of the 2010 school year. As a result, a new school policy will be developed and become effective from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010.

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## NEW BUILDING PROJECTS

We are about to enter another exciting development phase in the provision of new facilities at our school. These projects, all funded through the Ministry of Education property grants, will enable all students to learn in high quality facilities.

Coming up:

1. **New Adaptive Learning Centre.** This state of the art learning centre will be built over the library block. It is intended to complement our two research centres by using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology combined with the latest research on how adolescents learn, to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century centre for learning. It will also be used as a teacher development centre to provide teacher professional development as a centre of excellence using national and international experts.
2. **Refurbishment of Rooms 9 and 10.** These two rooms will look completely different when students start in 2010. The old toilet block will be incorporated into the adjoining classrooms, new wireless technology enabled and new wall linings and carpet installed.
3. **New Library and Resource Room.** With the addition of another floor, the library and resource room will be remodelled and expanded. The library looks very bare at the moment as it is being relocated to another room in the school as builders start demolition mid December.

### April 2010

4. Rooms 16 and 17. Remodelled and refurbished during the holidays. This will be similar to the work carried out in Rooms 9 and 10.

### July 2010

5. Rooms 13 and 14. Remodelled and refurbished.
6. **New Community Oral Health Centre.** To be built on Ngatai Road frontage. This will serve all local schools and will be staffed by three dental therapists plus three dental assistants.

### September 2010

7. Existing Dental Clinic converted into a **High Performance Centre** for the Sports Academy.
8. Rooms 19 and 20. Remodelled and refurbished.

### December 2010

9. Canteen extended and refurbished to accommodate modern equipment and demands.

## OTHER WORK BEING CARRIED OUT

### The New Playground

We are waiting for our building consent. Once this is issued, installation will commence. The playground to be known as Te Wero Nui (The Ultimate Challenge) is a "state of the art" structure that has been specifically designed to meet the needs of emerging adolescents.

The activities are established to develop strength, agility and power in the students.

While this is being installed, the existing confidence course will be upgraded to an army style assault course to complement Te Wero Nui and to develop agility and fitness.

A competition ladder will be established for the more competitive students as an incentive for the students to pit themselves against records established for course completion.

**Fundraising Target Met: \$75,000.00**

NZCT Grant	\$18,000.00
Ministry of Education	\$44,518.02
Discos	\$1,375.98
Mufti Days	\$706.00
Seed Fundraiser	<u>\$10,400.00</u>

## SECURITY CAMERAS

The whole school site is now covered by a network of remote controlled web-based digital cameras.

These can be accessed by authorised personnel from anywhere through a server linked to the internet and record any person entering the school site. Extra floodlights have been installed to enable easy identification of persons on the school site at night.

## TAURANGA BOYS' & GIRLS' COLLEGE ORIENTATION VISITS - 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER

**Tauranga Boys' College:** All students at Otumoetai Intermediate will be collected from their school by bus. They should wait by the school entrance on Charles Street to be picked up at 8.15am. Tauranga Boys' College will return all students in the afternoon (12.30pm - 1pm). **Important:** Parents must notify Lynne Hutchinson, Deputy Principal Otumoetai Intermediate, of any alternative arrangements for their son.

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## MADE AWARDS

Tuesday night, 10<sup>th</sup> November, a few lucky Otumoetai Intermediate school students attended the second National MADE (Movie and Digital Excellence) Awards held at Baycourt, Tauranga. This competition, which is based on a similar competition in the United States, was started by two Western Bay School Principals to give young people from around New Zealand the opportunity to show off their media and technology skills.

The categories included commercial, music video, storytelling, documentary, static image and manipulated image.

This year Otumoetai Intermediate had five groups and two individuals chosen as finalists (a fantastic number to get through to the finals from 1 school alone). My own entry, which had started way back in Term 2 as a homework assignment on "Career Options" was one of the finalists in the storytelling category.

The awards ceremony was very exciting with a sold out audience. There was musical entertainment, spot prizes and a feeling of excitement as finalists, teachers, parents and supporters were all enthusiastic to see which entry had won each category. The ceremony was well organised with the audience being shown a 30 second segment of each entry before a nerve racking drum roll and the announcement of the winner in each category. The winner's whole entry was then shown completely.

My category was first up and after the presentation of the Year 1-3 and Year 4-6, it was time to hear the winner of Year 7-8. I was thrilled to hear and see that my entry had won! It was great to be asked onto the stage with my teacher, Mr Parker, and to see my movie up on the big screen. I was presented with my trophy, certificate and a great digital camera for my school.

Another category winner from our school was Alex Fleming for the manipulated image category. Our school also placed second for commercial and manipulated image sections. Three groups also did well in the documentary category.

Making my movie and entering it into this competition was a great experience. It was a huge amount of work writing, directing, editing, putting audio to my film and working out different effects to use. It has made me really appreciate some of what is involved in making the movies we see at the cinema.

I would like to thank Mr Parker and Miss Cording for encouraging me to enter this competition and seeing it as something more than just another homework assignment. To all the finalists from our school - you did a great job!

To my mother, father and sister, I promise that you will all have lead roles in my next movie.

*By Millie Atkinson Room 15*

## 2010 STATIONERY PACKS

Parents and caregivers are reminded to hand your stationery order form and money into the school office as soon as possible. This will enable your child to have their stationery pack on their desk when they start school on the first day of 2010.

## 2010 TERM DATES

<b>Term 1</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> February - 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010
<b>Term 2</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> April - 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2010
<b>Term 3</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July - 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2010
<b>Term 4</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> October - 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2010

## NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Advertising on the back of our school newsletter is a great way to sponsor the school and promote your business at the same time. Our school newsletter is sent out fortnightly to over 900 families, businesses and community organisations. If you are interested in arranging for your advertisement to appear on the 2010 newsletter, please contact Barry's Newsletter Services Ltd for more details on 0508 733 733. Email [admin@bns.co.nz](mailto:admin@bns.co.nz) or ring the school office on 576 5105.

## END OF YEAR 2<sup>nd</sup> HAND UNIFORM SALE

<b>WHEN:</b>	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December at 9.00am.
<b>WHERE:</b>	Astroturf at front of school near outdoor stage.

This is an informal event where our Year 8 students are invited to come along to school and sell any good quality uniform items they might have.

This is not supervised by staff as the school will be closed and sellers will not be able to ask the office for change.

Parents of new students starting Year 7 have all been advised of this second hand uniform sale.

## YEAR 8 SOCIAL 2008

This will be held on the evening of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Further information will be provided to both students and parents at a later date.

The dress code for the Social is as follows:

### **GIRLS:**

- \*Dress, skirt or evening pants
- \*No midriff or strapless tops
- \*Low heeled shoes - if sandals, a back strap to avoid them slipping off when dancing
- \*No sport or skate shoes

**BOYS:**

- \*Dress pants (no shorts). Dress jeans are acceptable if in good condition Cargo pants are also acceptable.
- \*A shirt with a collar (no T-shirts)
- \*Leather or similar shoes - school winter shoes are fine. No sport or skate shoes.

**FINAL ASSEMBLY  
WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT  
11.00AM**

At this assembly we will farewell our Year 8 students and present the school's top award, "The Principal's Award", to students who have made outstanding contributions to the school and excelled across all four disciplines. These disciplines are: citizenship, sports, cultural and academic attainment.

This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year we will be presenting these red ribbon awards to recognise the achievement of our top students.

Students can either be nominated by their teacher for this award or nominate themselves or their peers for consideration.

**PROGRAMME FOR ASSEMBLY:**

- Welcome and Introduction - Mr Stanley.
- Whole assembly singing National Anthem.
- Address by Mr Zeinert - Board of Trustees Chairman.
- Principal's Awards presented to Year 7 students (1<sup>st</sup> group).
- Whole school singing
- Principal's Awards presented to Year 7 students (2<sup>nd</sup> group).
- Address by Mr Popping - School Principal.
- Principal's Awards presented to Year 8 students (1<sup>st</sup> group).
- Year 8 representatives to address the school.
- Principal's Awards presented to Year 8 students (2<sup>nd</sup> group).
- Whole school singing.
- Announcement of Student Leaders 2009.
- Closing comments by Mr Popping.
- Approximate finish time 12.00 to 12.30pm.

**PARENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT THE FINAL ASSEMBLY TO CELEBRATE THIS YEAR.**

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

- **MathZwise**  
Maths tuition for all ages!  
One on one or maximum 2 students per tutor  
Best service - guarantee success  
Ph: Mark (07) 577 9045 or check out website [www.mathzwise.co.nz](http://www.mathzwise.co.nz).
- **GBoard:** Traditional gutterboards for sale for Xmas. Handmade and painted with detail. \$25 each. Phone Yen on 570 0066 to pre-order now.
- **Celebrate Xmas Carols in the Community:** A combined event supported by the local churches. Our local schools will be performing during the evening. Come along with your picnic and enjoy a positive community gathering. 5<sup>th</sup> December from 5.30pm to 9.30pm. Otumoetai Primary School grounds. Gold coin entry.
- **Keeping Ourselves & Our Daughters Safe Course:** Women of all ages (including intermediate students) are invited to a free evening on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm at Tauranga Girls' College Hall. Tea, coffee, juice and a light supper will be provided. Guest Presenters are Liz Jamieson, Sylvia Powell, Jill Stanton RN and Community Constable Leanne Fairbairn (plus some helpful self defence tips for women).
- **Waimarino Adventure Club Summer Holiday Programme:** Ages 7 - 16. Dec 16<sup>th</sup> to Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 09. Jan 4<sup>th</sup> to Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 10. 8am to 5.30pm. For bookings phone (07) 576 4233. Register online at [club@waimarino.com](mailto:club@waimarino.com).
- **Tennis Programmes at Otumoetai Tennis Club:** Mon 21<sup>st</sup> to Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 91m to 12pm. \$100 (includes t-shirt). Last week of school holidays - Mon to Fri, 9am to 12pm. \$120 for all ages and abilities. 3 hours per day for 1 week is great for training. Email [jasonyoungnz@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonyoungnz@hotmail.com) or phone 0272 454 317.
- **Tui Glen Horse Riding Camp & Kiwi Farm Experience Camp:** OSCAR approved (WINZ subsidy). Suitable for 8-17 year olds. Book via phone, email or website. (07) 323 6457, [www.tuiglen.net.nz](http://www.tuiglen.net.nz) or [tuiglenincorporate@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tuiglenincorporate@xtra.co.nz).
- **Paint a Canvas for Xmas with Artist Paula Knight:** For enquiries and bookings phone Paula on 542 3455 or 029 602 4108. [paula@paulaknight.co.nz](mailto:paula@paulaknight.co.nz). Also enquire two other exciting days in January 2010.

Kia Kaha  
Regards

Henk Popping  
**PRINCIPAL**